

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115204  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

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FOR AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 19 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. ROBERT KEATLEY, REPORTING FROM GENEVA FOR WALL STREET JOURNAL, SAID SOVIET AND AMERICAN SENIOR DIPLOMATS REOPENED NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TALKS "AND THEN REFUSED -- BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT -- TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY HAD ACCOMPLISHED." COMMENTING ON PRESS SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER'S COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN, KEATLEY SAID IF CARTER'S "FEW AND CAREFUL WORDS ARE ACCURATE," THEN IT "APPEARS THAT PROGRESS OF ONE SORT, AT LEAST, IS BEING MADE TOWARD COMPLETING SECOND SALT TREATY." VANCE AND GROMYKO, KEATLEY ADDED, SEEM TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOME CONCEPTS AND DETAILS INVOLVED IN ALL THREE U.S. AND SOVIET SUGGESTED SALT PLANS. "IF SO," HE SAID, "THAT INDICATES SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FINALLY BEGUN."

2. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT TAKASHI OKA, IN DISPATCH FROM BRUSSELS, COMMENTED: "EAST-WEST RELATIONS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 115204

ENTERING CRITICAL 12-MONTH PERIOD. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE OF ANY FRESH SOVIET INITIATIVE, BUT BECAUSE NATO ALLIES SHOULD HAVE MUCH CLEARER IDEA OF SOVIET INTENTIONS BY TIME THEY HOLD THEIR NEXT SUMMIT MEETING, SET FOR MAY, 1978, IN WASHINGTON. LONG BEFORE THEN, STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WILL HAVE SHOWN HOW FAR MOSCOW INTENDS TO MOVE DOWN ROAD OF SUBSTANTIVE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL." OTHER KEY GAUGES

OVER NEXT 12 MONTHS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS ARE BELGRADE REVIEW OF 35-NATION HELSINKI SUMMIT DECLARATION, NATO STUDY ON LONG-TERM TRENDS, AND ANOTHER ON HOW NATO FORCES CAN MEET CHANGING DEFENSE NEEDS OF 1980S, OKA SAID.

3. FROM WASHINGTON, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT JOHN DILLIN REPORTED THAT LONG-TERM SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP "IS SENDING SHIVERS THROUGH NATO CAPITALS." HE SAID NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE ORDERED CRASH PROGRAM TO COUNTER GROWING SOVIET MILITARY CHALLENGE. NUCLEAR BALANCE PUTS NEW IMPORTANCE ON CONVENTIONAL FORCES, DILLIN SAID, "FOR WHICH SOVIETS HAVE POURED BILLIONS OF RUBLES INTO WEAPONS PROCUREMENT AND RESEARCH."

4. GORGE C. WILSON, IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATED THAT PROPOSED B-1 BOMBER FLEET WILL COST 40 BILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT 20 YEARS -- AND 101.7 MILLION DOLLARS PER PLANE. 36-MEMBER ORGANIZATION CALLED "NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP B-1 BOMBER" RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER SAYING "I EXPECT TO MAKE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PRODUCE B-1 THIS SUMMER." NANCY RAMSEY OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, AT COALITION-CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID IF CARTER DOES ORDER B-1 BOMBER INTO PRODUCTION, "IT WILL BE BREACH OF FAITH."

5. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED CONGRESS U.S. PLANS TO SELL SPAIN 270 SPARROW MISSILES AND SPARE PARTS FOR 33.9 MILLION DOLLARS AND AN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 115204

UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SIDEWINDER MISSILES TO MOROCCO FOR NINE MILLION DOLLARS.

6. WASHINGTON POST AND BALTIMORE SUN AMONG PAPERS REPORTING ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. SUN SAID REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S RENEWED EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ARMS REDUCTIONS WITH SOVIET UNION THIS WEEK IN GENEVA. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST QUOTED SENATOR HUMPHREY AS SAYING CRUISE MISSILES ARE "OUR ACE IN HOLE" BECAUSE OF U.S. TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD. MARDER SAID SENATOR JACKSON, CHAMPION OF CRUISE MISSILES, REPORTEDLY WAS GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN U.S. POSITION. MARDER SAID OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR NEW SALT AGREEMENT "MAY DEPEND ON HOW AN ACCORD AFFECTS THE AMERICAN-DEVELOPED CRUISE MISSILES, WHICH SOVIETS SEEK TO LIMIT."

7. WIDELY REPORTED WAS GENEVA CEREMONY DURING WHICH OFFICIALS FROM 35 NATIONS, INCLUDING VANCE AND GROMYKO, SIGNED CONVENTION BANNING ENVIRONMENTAL WAR. CHRISTOPHER

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